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(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
11 November 2004 (11.11.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/096494 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B24D 11/00**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/010840

(22) International Filing Date: 8 April 2004 (08.04.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0309393.7 25 April 2003 (25.04.2003) GB

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

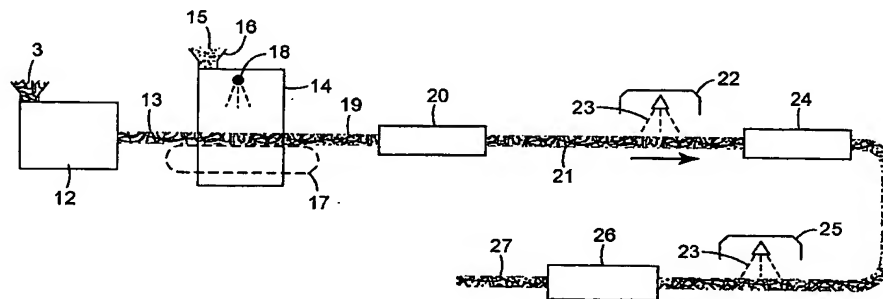
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHOD OF MANUFACTURING NONWOVEN ABRASIVE ARTICLES USING DRY PARTICULATE MATERIAL**



(57) Abstract: A method of making a nonwoven abrasive article (17) includes the steps of forming a three-dimensional nonwoven fibrous web (3) contacted with dry particulate material that includes fusible binder particles (5); exposing the web to conditions that cause the binder particles to form a flowable liquid binder, and then solidifying the liquid binder to form bonds between the fibres of the web and thereby provide a pre-bonded web (11); and applying abrasive particles to the pre-bonded web, and bonding the abrasive particles to the fibres of the pre-bonded web to provide the abrasive article. The fusible binder particles (5) can be applied to the nonwoven fibrous web (3) after the latter has been formed, for example by spraying the binder particles at the web using an electrostatic powder spray gun (8). The abrasive particles may be applied to the pre-bonded web in a slurry (13) formed by mixing the particles with a make-coat binder resin that is subsequently cured to bond the abrasive particles to the fibres of the pre-bonded web.

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